GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6138
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
RAILWAY HOSPITALS
Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held that the services rendered by the Railway hospitals in the country would come within the purview of consumer courts:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though medical treatment in Railway Hospitals is provided free of cost to railway medical beneficiaries, the cost of medical care in Railway Hospitals is borne by the Railway administration as a part of service conditions. Hence the services rendered by railway hospitals / health units are covered within the parameters laid down in the para 56(12) of the judgement of the Hon`ble in V.P. Shanta`s case and as further affirmed in judgement in SLP No. 4994 of 2004 . Hence railway hospitals / health units are covered under Consumer Protection Act.

(c) Indian Railways are adhering to Hon`ble Court`s judgement.